

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN TBIO EG

SUBJ: US (NAMRU-3) EGYPT AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 147114 B) CAIRO 10133

1. SUMMARY. NAMRU AND EMB REPS MET WITH MINHEALTH REPS AUGUST 5, TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. MEETING WAS PRELIMINARY AND FOR PURPOSE OF HEARING INITIAL EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON US TEXT (REFTEL). MINHEALTH HAS CONCERNS RELATING TO CO-DIRECTOR, DISSEMINATION OF PUBLICATIONS AND APPLICATION OF LABOR LAWS. END SUMMARY.

2. NAMRU-3 COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPT. W.J. MINER AND EMBSCIATT RICHMOND MET WITH MINHEALTH UNDERSECRETARIES RAMSIS GOMAA AND AHMED BADRAN TO GET EGYPTIAN REACTION TO US TEXT. DISCUSSION WAS PRELIMINARY. MORE DEFINITIVE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IN SEPT. FOLLOWING VACATIONS AND TRAVEL OF SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS. US TEXT WAS REVIEWED BY ARTICLE AS FAR AS ARTICLE VII. REVIEW WILL CONTINUE IN SEPT, WHEN NEGOTIATION ON LANGUAGE WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO CONFORM IN SOME INSTANCES, TO EGYPTIAN AND US LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

3. GOE RAISED FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS (UP TO ARTICLE VII):

A) CO-DIRECTOR --- OBJECTION TO SPECIFIC DESIGNATION AS "FULL TIME" BECAUSE IN GOE PARLANCE THIS MEANS INDIVIDUAL CANNOT HAVE A PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE AND STILL BE PAID BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINHEALTH. DESCRIBING CO-DIRECTOR AS HAVING THAT POSITION

AS "SOLE RESPONSIBILITY" IS ONE WAY OUT. ACCEPTABLE TO GOE.
B) PUBLICATIONS (ARTICLE VI) - MINHEALTH WANTS TO APPROVE
DISSEMINATION REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS. APPARENTLY CERTAIN
STATISTICAL, DEMOGRAPHIC AND ANALYTIC DATA, ALTHOUGH NOT
CLASSIFIED, BY LAW CAN ONLY BE DISSEMINATED WITH OFFICIAL GOE
SANCTION (FYI - MIN HEALTH DESCRIPTION OF TYPES OF
DATA AFFECTED WOULD APPEAR TO INCLUDE SOME PL-480 PROJECTS
AS WELL. END FYI) MINHEALTH WAS TOLD THAT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
DISSEMINATION IS SENSITIVE AREA FOR US AND THAT THERE ARE ALSO
APPLICABLE US LAWS.
C) EMPLOYMENT OF EGYPTIAN CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS--
MINHEALTH WANTS TO HAVE A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO EGYPTIAN LABOR
LAW. A FEW OF ITS PROVISIONS, E.G. LENGTH OF PROBATION PERIOD
AND CRITERIA FOR DISCHARGE GIVE US PROBLEMS. WE SAID NAMRU
COULD NOT ACCEPT BEING FLATLY SUBORDINATE TO EGYPTIAN LABOR LAW.
IT WAS AGREED TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THESE,
PARTICULARLY B) AND C) BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION. WE
POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT NAMRU PRACTICES ALREADY CONFORM
LARGELY TO LABOR LAW AND IN SOME CASES ARE MORE
BENEFICIAL TO EMPLOYEES THAN EGYPTIAN REQUIREMENTS.

4. GOMAA AND BANDRAN WERE FLEXIBLE IN THEIR APPROACH AND
INTERESTED IN REACHING AGREEMENTS ON TEXT. FYI. SOME
SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, IN VIEW
OF PRELIMINARY NATURE OF FIRST MEETING AND INCOMPLETE REVIEW
OF US TEXT, WE ARE NOT FORWARDING THESE NOW. WE PREFER TO
SUBMIT SUGGESTED CHANGES AS COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOW SEPT.
MEETING. MFA WILL ALSO HAVE TO REVIEW AT LATER DATE. END
FYI.
MATTHEWS

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